

HE KNOWS ALL ABOUT COREA

New Arrival at Washington Gives an Interesting Account of the Country.

TALK WITH THE JAPANESE SECRETARY

Coreans Have Lived for Years in Chinese Darkness but Are Now Emerging into the Light—Crushing of the Tongkangs.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—A new first secretary to the Japanese legation at Washington, Mr. K. Matsui, has just arrived here, having been transferred from his post at Seoul, the capital of Corea, where he has recently passed through the exciting events by which Corea precipitated the war between Japan and China.

Mr. Matsui is one of the keen young men speaking English fluently who are distinguishing Japan for her diplomacy as well as her military powers. He talks interestingly of Corea and the reforms inaugurated by Japan, the personality of the Korean king and queen, the Tongkang rebellion and other events that have come vaguely to the outer world.

"The Coreans were suspicious and fearful at the outset," said Mr. Matsui, "but Japan had come to conquer and absorb them, but they have come gradually to realize that the enlightened reforms suggested by Count Inouye, the Japanese envoy there, are for the advancement of the country. Corea is well equipped for this work, as he signed the first treaty of peace and amity made with Corea nearly twenty years ago, and was again concerned with the country in 1884. But the work of reform is very slow and it will be years before the country will emerge from the darkness she has acquired from China. That country has long claimed Corea as a dependency, and Chinese conservatism has been pressed on the country. There are about 2,000 Chinese at Seoul, and these, with the other Chinese influences, have kept Corea in the old ways and have prevented contact with the outer world."

"But the reforms urged by Japan are beginning to manifest themselves," continued Mr. Matsui. "The king and queen, as well as the cabinet, consult Count Inouye and concede largely to his judgment. He is frequently summoned to the palace, where the king personally consults him on the conduct of affairs. The king is a most just and fair man, although perhaps lacking in force of character. The queen has marked ability and an excellent influence is felt by the ministry. She is by far the first woman in Corea. "The administration of affairs is being left entirely with the Coreans. The royal household is being maintained as it was before the war, although the palace is much run down because of the lack of funds. The reform has brought about an increase of the cabinet from six, as it was before the war, to ten, the same as Japan's cabinet. The new cabinet includes ministers of finance, foreign affairs, war, justice, public works, education, etc. All of the ministers are natives Coreans. They have little or no aptitude for social organization on modern lines, but they consult Count Inouye and are ready to accept suggestions, although their natural stolidness makes the process of advancement tedious. "The finances of the country are very bad. There is lack of money for public works. The currency is of ancient form and so cumbersome that the strongest men could not carry more than \$30. There is no navy. The army is meager, with several Americans serving as instructors. They have modern rifles and some Krupp guns, but they have been allowed to rust and the soldiers can not handle them effectively. "We were in constant communication with the seat of war, as Seoul is on the line of the through telegraph line from Port Arthur. But there was little excitement among the Coreans and they accepted the struggle with their usual stolidity. "The Korean army and about 1,200 Japanese troops were sent against the Tongkangs, and the rebellion was about suppressed when the Tongkangs made up the mountain elements in the south of Corea, on a religious sect and the other a class of robbers and brigands, in all about 70,000. The leaders brought their arms to the town and forced them on pain of death to give up their money. The brigand element joined in the general extortion and pillage. Many corporations, credit and murders occurred. The Japanese and Coreans of Seoul subdued the outbreak. The Tongkangs fought with crude weapons, but hundreds of them would fly before a squad of twenty trained Japanese Infantrymen. "Mr. Matsui stopped at Yokohama on his way here long enough to observe the intense patriotism of his countrymen. The celebration of Japan's victories over the Chinese are of daily occurrence. The streets were lined with flags hung from the roofs and joined in the middle of the street making an arcade of flags. At night Japanese lanterns made the city resplendent. The Japanese press was doing its part in getting out frequent "extraneous" recording each new victory of Japanese arms.

GREAT SAVING ON COAL

War Ships at the West Indies to Be Supplied by Direct Shipment.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The equipment bureau of the navy department has saved about \$50,000 at one move by adopting the plan of supplying the United States fleet in the West Indies with coal by direct shipment. Coal is very high there, the prices paid averaging \$7.30 per ton, except at St. Lucia, where competition has caused a slight reduction. The department has usually been obliged to pay this without protest, for in the case of a single ship it would not pay to make a contract for coal from the United States and in other cases the vessels of our fleet have been kept moving from one port to another without a well defined program. The navy department has chartered a collier to chase the fleet. But when Admiral Meade took his fleet to the West Indies he went away leaving a clearly defined itinerary at the department, and the equipment bureau seized upon the opportunity to save money on the large amount of coal that would be burned. There is much complaint at the department, and the equipment bureau has saved about \$50,000 at one move by adopting the plan of supplying the United States fleet in the West Indies with coal by direct shipment. Coal is very high there, the prices paid averaging \$7.30 per ton, except at St. Lucia, where competition has caused a slight reduction. The department has usually been obliged to pay this without protest, for in the case of a single ship it would not pay to make a contract for coal from the United States and in other cases the vessels of our fleet have been kept moving from one port to another without a well defined program. The navy department has chartered a collier to chase the fleet. But when Admiral Meade took his fleet to the West Indies he went away leaving a clearly defined itinerary at the department, and the equipment bureau seized upon the opportunity to save money on the large amount of coal that would be burned.

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CONGRESS BEAT THE RECORD

Appropriations of the Last One Exceed Any of Its Predecessors.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT NOT YET READY

Cannon Makes a Comparison of the Expenditures of the Last Body with the Preceding Republican Congress—Only Shortage Was on Pensions.

AMENDING CIVIL SERVICE RULES.

Most of the Changes Made Necessary by the Extension of the System.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The president has approved sundry amendments of the civil service rules. These amendments are largely formal, and were made necessary in consequence of the recent extension of the classification in the departmental service to include messengers, assistant messengers and watchmen, and the classification of the internal revenue service. One of the amendments gives the Civil Service commission authority, in its discretion, to reject the applicant or to refuse the certification of an applicant who has been guilty of a crime or of infamous or notoriously disgraceful conduct. Prior to this amendment the commission only had power with limitations to certify applicants for the various positions brought within the classified service by the recent extension. These limitations are for messengers and assistant messengers, not under 18; for page or messenger boy, not under 14 nor over 18 years of age.

A further amendment provides for transfers from the internal revenue service to a bureau in the Treasury department, in which business relating to the internal revenue is transacted, and from such a bureau to the internal revenue service, this amendment being designed to bring the provisions of the customs service to the Treasury department, and from the Treasury department to the customs service. A provision has been added which authorizes transfers from one department in Washington to another without examination.

This amendment has been made in view of the fact that the civil service law has now been in operation in the departmental service more than eleven years, and that a large proportion of the employees now in these departments have entered the service through the civil service examinations, and the further fact that those who have not been so appointed have had long experience and have acquired considerable knowledge of the business of the department in which they are employed, but of the public service generally. In view of these considerations it is deemed expedient to make the transfer from one department to another, where the transfer is to be to a place and a class of duties similar to those performed in the department from which the transfer is made, and where the transfer is to be without detriment to the public interest.

A further amendment to the rules provides that persons appointed as messengers, assistant messengers, watchmen, or in any other subordinate capacity below the positions of clerk or copyist, may be transferred after completing the probation of six months, if not debarred by age limitations, to any other like subordinate position. But they may not be promoted to the position of clerk or copyist, or to any place the duties of which are clerical. An exception is made with regard to printing assistants in the bureau of engraving and printing, who are only eligible to transfer to the grade of operatives in that bureau.

CONCERNING MEXICAN FREE ZONE.

Prospect of a War of Tariffs Discussed from a Washington Standpoint.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The press dispatches received from El Paso, Tex., to the effect that efforts are being made to induce the Mexican government to adopt retaliatory measures against the United States for having insisted on the free trade privileges were shown to the treasury officials today. So far as they knew the Mexican government had offered no objection to the resolution while it was pending in congress, and now that it was a law it would be strictly enforced. The regulations for this purpose are now being prepared and within the next few days customs officers at all of the ports of the United States will be notified that foreign goods intended for the "free zone" will no longer be received for shipment in bond. When the dispatch concerning a meeting at El Paso, Tex., to urge retaliation against the United States was shown to Minister Romero of Mexico he made the following statement: "Under the Mexican constitution and laws the Mexican states have no power to retaliate against any foreign government, and therefore it is impossible to give effect to the Mexican citizens of Juárez, who it is claimed held a meeting yesterday at that place, neither they nor the people of Chihuahua can do anything that will affect the commerce of the United States on the frontier. It is only for the federal government to adopt any such policy should they think it fit to do so. The collector of customs of Juárez is a federal officer and can only act on instructions from the federal government."

While the congress of the United States has a perfect right to enact any tariff law and Mexico can not complain as long as her rights are not affected, and no unjust discriminations adopted, and while Senator Romero thinks that the recent law would be rather prejudicial to the interest of the United States citizens living on the frontier, rather than Mexican citizens, he does not say he dislikes to see anything like the beginning of a war of tariffs.

BOTH SONS DENY THE STORY.

Alleged Quarrel in the Family of Fred Douglas Contradicted.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The following statement was made today by the two sons of the late Frederick Douglas: "The statement telegraphed to the morning papers of the country that there is or has been antagonism between us and our father, is entirely untrue. We are in no way without foundation. That there has been any consultation with any one at any place or time regarding any will of Frederick Douglas is a matter of which we have no knowledge. We are absolutely unable to account for the statement telegraphed to the press."

LEWIS H. DOUGLASS, CHARLES R. DOUGLASS.

INTERESTING COPYRIGHT CASE.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—An important question relating to copyrights has been raised by a well known publishing house and is now under consideration at the Treasury department. The old copyright law made it illegal to bring into the United States foreign copies of books copyrighted in this country. The law of 1891 amended this law, but expressly stated it was not to affect until a subsequent date, July 1, 1901. The question involved is whether the new law, not being retroactive, did not release from the prohibition all books of American authors copyrighted prior to July 1, 1901. Should it be held that the new law took the place of the old one foreign editions of all American books written and copyrighted in 1891 might hereafter be imported free of duty and without regard to American copyright laws, which would be a serious loss to the publishing business in this country.

Selling American Wools in England. WASHINGTON, March 7.—Anomalous as it appears, American cloth is being sold in the English market and rights in the center of the English cloth manufacturing districts. The United States Consul Mearns, who has reported the fact to the State department, says his views to justify the prohibitions made at the time of the passage of the tariff act. He says that a representative of an American house has been buying English cloth in London and selling it in the United States at a profit of 25 cents per yard. The English merchants pronounce it to be superior cloth for the reason that it is made of short wool, and cannot be made as produced and sold for the price.

HOKE WITH RETURNS FROM GEORGIA.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Secretary Hoke Smith has returned to the city after a short visit to Georgia. He was visited to-day by the delegation of Okechobee, Oklawaha, and Volusia counties, who desired to pay their respects previous to their early departure for home.

CASH IN THE TREASURY.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—Today's statement of the condition of the treasury shows available cash balance, \$182,972,631; gold reserve, \$99,462,631.

SHOUP GOES TO THE SENATE

Long Struggle in Idaho Ended at the Eleventh Hour.

SWEET'S FORCES WENT TO PIECES

Twelve Stuck to Him and the Rest Went to the Victor, Giving Him Just Enough to Win—Pops Were Sold.

MOVEMENTS OF WAR VESSELS.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The Raleigh sailed from Trinidad for Colon yesterday. The Castine has arrived at Malta. The Yorktown left Chefoo yesterday for Chemung. The Vesuvius has put in at the Delaware breakwater.

CALL FOR A NATIONAL BANK STATEMENT.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—The comptroller of the currency has ordered Bank Examiner Johnson to check up the First National bank of Texarkana, Tex. The capital stock of the bank is \$50,000 and the liabilities are \$40,000. The bank has never, had become impaired and the failure of the stockholders to make it good, the order to suspend was withdrawn.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

Southwestern, Pa., March 7.—The Pennsylvania National bank statement.

VETERANS OF THE LATE WAR REMEMBERED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

WASHINGTON, March 7.—(Special.)—Pensions granted, issue of February 20, 1895: Nebraska: Increase—Morris M. Aaron, Rock, Lancaster; Perry Strickland, Omaha, Douglas; Reissner—Washington J. Williams, Bloomington, Franklin; Isaac A. Matlock, Kenesaw, Adams; Henry C. Allen, Fremont, Dodge; Theodore W. Wiloughby, Kearney, Buffalo; Richard Rush Schick, Seward, Seward; Original widows etc.—Emily E. Balfour, Lincoln; Increase—Morris M. Aaron, Rock, Lancaster; Perry Strickland, Omaha, Douglas; Reissner—Washington J. Williams, Bloomington, Franklin; Isaac A. Matlock, Kenesaw, Adams; Henry C. Allen, Fremont, Dodge; Theodore W. Wiloughby, Kearney, Buffalo; Richard Rush Schick, Seward, Seward; Original widows etc.—Emily E. Balfour, Lincoln; Increase—Morris M. Aaron, Rock, Lancaster; Perry Strickland, Omaha, Douglas; Reissner—Washington J. Williams, Bloomington, Franklin; Isaac A. Matlock, Kenesaw, Adams; Henry C. Allen, Fremont, Dodge; Theodore W. 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